

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

01 MAY 1991

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8920-ALM

Mr. Roger Des Prez, President
Gallup Public Radio
910 Monterey Court
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

In re: NEW, Gallup, New Mexico
Gallup Public Radio
BPED-900813MI

Dear Mr. Des Prez:

This is in reference to the subject application which was filed on August 13, 1990 and which seeks a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1860 to permit unattended operation during periods when the station is rebroadcasting the signal of another station. In support of your waiver request, you state that:

"[t]his waiver request with the associated application for permit to construct a new non-commercial FM station to serve Gallup, New Mexico will make possible, (1) first public radio service to an unserved area in a topographically and culturally isolated, sparsely populated area in Western New Mexico with limited financial capability, (2) specialized local service of, by and for the Native American population, and (3) to provide service as efficiently and cost effectively as possible (emphasis added).

The Gallup area is typical of much of the beautiful, spacious but sparsely populated Western New Mexico Counties--largely rural, multicultural and multilingual, lacking educational and cultural opportunities and amenities available in urban centers, chronically economically depressed and unable to ever support a standard Public Radio Station, yet with citizens as entitled to the benefits of public radio as those in more populous areas, whose need for those services is in fact greater.

Gallup [is] located in the Eastern edge of the Navajo Nation, 120 air miles West of Albuquerque shadowed from Albuquerque public radio service by the Continental Divide, [and is] in an area with no significant educational native programming for its people.

This requested waiver is necessary, simply as a matter of economics. It is financially unrealistic to staff the operation 18 hours a day 7 days a week 52 weeks a year to monitor the transmitter, when the station is operating in the

repeater mode, whereas the practicality with local programming is synonymous. This waiver is crucial to an economical service otherwise not affordable.

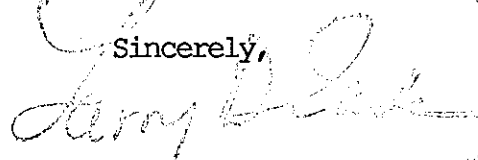
Finally, you state that the Gallup Public Radio Board, during rebroadcasting operations, will ensure full-time off-air monitoring from the control point to permit prompt shutdown of the station in the event of unacceptable transmission performance, and that transmission will automatically terminate upon loss of input signal from the primary station.

In view of the unique service to be provided by the proposed station, we are persuaded that waiver of 47 C.F.R. §§ 73.1860(a) & (b) would be in the public interest and is warranted. Accordingly, these waivers ARE GRANTED subject to the conditions set forth below.

1. The waivers are granted only for operation at 100 watts maximum ERP.
2. Daily local origination by this station shall not exceed 50% of its hours of operation; and
3. During the time that the station is rebroadcasting another station's signal, the transmission of this station must automatically terminate upon loss of the input signal from the primary station. Furthermore, the licensee of this station shall have the ability to shut down the transmitter from the primary station or from the local control point.
4. During all periods of rebroadcast, the primary station must assume all responsibility for compliance with EBS monitoring and Emergency Action Notification transmissions.

Finally, the application by Gallup Public Radio for a new noncommercial, educational FM station in Gallup, New Mexico IS GRANTED.

Sincerely,



Larry D. Eads, Chief
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau